

★★★★★ OUR FULL COUNCIL PRIMARY COVERAGE STARTS ON PAGE 3 ★★★★★

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# The Brooklyn Paper

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## A NEW BALLGAME

### Arena re-design is not a 'hangar'



**SHOP TALK:** The latest designs for Bruce Ratner's basketball arena at the intersection of Flatbush and Atlantic avenues (above) are decidedly bolder than the first post-Frank Gehry renderings that the developer put out earlier this summer (right). The design by the Midwestern firm of Ellerbe Becket, has been spruced up thanks to a partnership with the Manhattan firm, SHoP Architects. Gehry's "Urban Room" is gone.



#### SWEPT AWAY!

### Cyclones crash & burn in Ohio field

By Zuke Faux  
The Brooklyn Paper

The Cyclones' quest to bring championship to Brooklyn ended in ignominy with a two-game sweep in the first round by the Royals by the Midwest Valley Scrappers. After leading the New-York Penn

League's McNamara Division for most of the season, the Mint Amanis slumped into the post-season as the wild card — and looked as flat and frustrated as the big league Mets in the best-of-three playoff series. The Cyclones, the league-leading Scrappers, masterfully seventh and making four errors.

The offense was so weak, Brooklyn practically needed no-hitters from its starters, but it got a pair of less-than-perfect performances. Righty fireballer Mark Cohon — 9-2 with 14 saves — gave up three runs over seven innings and making four errors.

clinger, Brandon Moore, who threw no-hitter on Aug. 23, gave up three runs and only lasted five innings. On the other side of the field, Scrappers' pitchers kept the young zeroes. "You can't give up three runs," said Lopez. "You're facing the best

See CLONES on page 11

## Feds nab Bay Ridge's 'Bernie Madoff'

### But a victim of alleged Ponzi schemer forgives him!

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

The feds say that Bay Ridge had its own Bernie Madoff — though one of his biggest victims says she has already forgiven him.

One-time Bay Ridge residents arrested Philip Barry and charged him with running a 31-year-long Ponzi scheme that bilked hundreds of clients out of a total of \$1 billion. 68-year-old victim Barbara Grebin told The Brooklyn Paper that she not only lost hundreds of thousands of dollars to Barry, but had also lost her life.

"I can't spend the rest of my life being angry," she said, showing off the fake smile that Barry had sent her, promising her a fortune, even as he allegedly scammed her out of close to \$400,000 over 28 years. "Sure, I was depressed, but

at some point, I just decided that I can't let anger consume the rest of my life."

Like Madoff, Barry's alleged crime came to light only after he was exposed by the economic collapse that bankrupted him last year. And just as

with Madoff's fund, some clients made a profit, though the vast majority lost their investments, prosecutors said.

"He collected hundreds of individuals to hand over their savings," said U.S. Attorney Benton

Campbell, the federal prosecutor for the district that includes Brooklyn. "In reality, the defendant's investment fund was nothing more than a classic Ponzi scheme."

Barry, a long-registered companies, Leverage Group and North American Financial Services, is accused of fraud and conspiracy that showed he was investing in stock options and earning his neighborhood clients solid returns.

But court papers say that he stopped working on an un-related real-estate and on an un-related mid-order porn business, hiding the scheme under hefty profits.

"These purportedly guaranteed

See PONZI on page 11



### Condo offer: Move innie, get an Audi

By Ben Muessig  
The Brooklyn Paper

These apartments are priced to move — literally.

In an attempt to kick condo sales at One Brooklyn Bridge Park into high gear, the developers behind the Furman Street conversion rolled out a new promotion this week that will give a free Audi sedan to anyone who buys an apartment that costs more than \$2 million.

Alongside the 2009 A4, the deal, which was first spotted by Curbed, also promises free 10-year financing contracts for 30+ something month valuable: a free parking space.

"It's a differentiator for the Brooklyn Heights market," said Ian Levine, a spokesman for the developer behind the conversion of the former Jehovah's Witness printing plant.

See AUDI on page 11

## 'SOUTHERN' HOSPITALITY

### Band finds no 'Comfort' in cease-and-desist order

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

Ooo-oh, this smells! Last week, the Ridge's beloved Southern Comfort, a rock band best known for its versions of Southern-fried classics by Lynyrd Skynyrd, the Allman Brothers and Outlaw blues iconoclasts like the Backers of a frat-house booze that owns the copyright.

It's the Southern Comfort Project, who make the world-renowned Southern Comfort liqueur — also demanded that the band cease and desist from using the website www.southerncomfort.com by Sept. 16.

"The Southern Comfort brand has a strong connection with music, and the public associates the Southern

Comfort brand and its products with music," lawyer Jill Jacobs said in a Sept. 2 letter to the band's guiding light, Sam "Eddie" Sarkis, a member of "use of 'Southern Comfort' in your band's name ... is likely to cause the public to mistakenly believe that the band is sponsored by Southern Comfort Properties when they are not."

It was this letter that he'd been asked in a barroom after reading the letter.

"When I got the letter, I didn't think it was real," he said. "Then I saw Brooklyn Paper and I was like, 'What? They took my name?'"

Actually, when he asked



Eddie Sarkis' band, Southern Comfort, has been ordered to stop using the name of a popular syrup spirit by the company that makes it.

Jacobs that very question, she had a simple answer, "Think of this speeding analogy," she wrote back to him in an e-

mail. "Everyone on the road may be driving 75 mph, but that does not mean that if a police officer pulls you over,

you will not get a ticket even if the other drivers do not."

Courts have upheld the right of copyright holders in cases where the business' use of the same name confuses the public, so Jacobs' legal argument is fairly routine.

Indeed, a few years back, the owners of F-Line Bagel received just such a cease-and-desist letter from lawyers for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, who argued that the store's location across the street from the F-train stop at Smith and Ninth Streets in Brooklyn would confuse straphangers into believing that the MTA had gotten into the bagel business.

The store removed the "F" and is now known to some as See SOUTH on page 9



### He's got legs

George Williams hugs his mom, Danielle Midgette, before starting his first day of kindergarten at PS 32 in Carroll Gardens on Wednesday, one day after a timely new report revealed that child-care costs are going through the roof. See page 5.

## Bullets over 'Broadway'

### City sued over Triangle

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

A coalition of 40 North Brooklyn community groups sued the city on Wednesday, contending that the proposed Broadway Triangle rezoning plan would inflict "irreparable" harm to the racially and ethnically diverse portions reserved for below-market-rate housing.

The suit, filed in Supreme Court,

argues that racially diverse process

cut out dozens of community

groups from participating in plans

to convert 31 acres of former industrial land in East Williamsburg into a

mixed-income community with large

portions reserved for below-market

rate housing.

United Jewish Organizations of

Williamsburg, Brooklyn, Boro Park, B

wick Senior Citizens Council — two

non-profit groups tied to Assemblyman Vito Lopez (D-Bushwick) — were given no-bid contracts by the city to develop housing in the Triangle.

City officials have defended that arrangement because both groups submitted proper applications for site control. But Lopez argues that the city intentionally excluded other groups.

The suit is the culmination of years of tension between the largely Hispanic community and the expanding Hasidic neighborhood nearby.

Many of the court papers are peppered with the charge that the Williamsburg Hasidic community "has been" the "beneficiary of racial quotas" and "other forms of heavy illegal discrimination."

The suit also contends that "almost 50 percent" of the 2,000 units of public housing in the area are occupied by Hasidic Jews, "despite the fact that the community is not one of discriminatory practices and despite the fact that the waiting list for such housing has remained at over 90 percent Latino and African Americans for more than 30 years."

But after years of aligning himself with those groups, Lopez "switched

See TRIANGLE on page 6

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# THE STOOP

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

## PARK SLOPE

# Open and shut

Schools are here, but the armory isn't

By Will Yakowicz  
 for The Brooklyn Paper

The Park Slope delayed re-opening of its elementary school — has missed yet another deadline and did not open in time for the first day of classes on Wednesday. The Brooklyn Paper has learned...

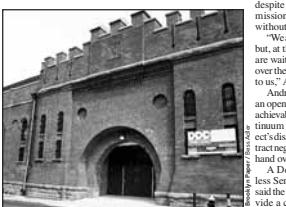
The 114-year-old former armory on Eighth Avenue was gorged on by the city in 2007 with the intention of serving as a gym for the adjacent PS 107 and the community. But it has sat idle amid contractual squabbles and bureaucratic red tape ever since.

All the documents available have indicated that the opening date was right around the corner.

But the date will be open by 2012, promised Angela Helland, who was walking with her toddler outside the center on Tuesday. Helland said she was told that the YMCA run by the facility was delayed by the latest date because she moved across the street from the block-long armory last year in anticipation of its opening.

Helland has ample reason for frustration. After all, the ribbon cutting that celebrated a deal between the YMCA and the Project Park YMCA to run the facility was 17 months ago. At the time, the programs were slated to begin this spring.

But the promise of spring



Despite more than a year of promises, the Park Slope Armory is still not open. Cynthia Holton, the principal, pointing at that same schoolyard where PS 107 students will get fresh air tomorrow.

"This is my gym. This is where we do about everything," she added.

Holton is anticipating more delays.

"In the winter, I'll tell my parents to keep their kids warm," she shrugged.

is fully completed," he said. Some classrooms and bathrooms remain unfinished, he added.

YMCAs across the boroughs, which oversees the Department of Homeless Services, which has been in charge of the construction, despite its slightly different mission, are working for those without shelter.

"We're working with them, but, at the end of the day, we are waiting for them to hand over the permits to us," Andrews said.

Andrews believes that an opening in mid-fall would be possible if the city could contain a series of delays in the project's disastrous history of contract negotiations and now, the handover process.

A spokesperson for Homeless Services spokeswoman said the agency could not provide a comment in time for The Brooklyn Paper's frantic deadline.

The rec center, which

will also serve other public schools, will include basketball, a track, classrooms and other facilities, as originally planned by PS 107, which is one block away. The new recreation play area cut in half because of the second facade renovation in as many years.

The school has neither a gym nor an auditorium.

"We've got the armory more than ever," said Cynthia Holton, the principal, pointing at that same schoolyard where PS 107 students will get fresh air tomorrow.

"This is my gym. This is where we do about everything," she added.

Holton is anticipating more delays.

"In the winter, I'll tell my parents to keep their kids warm," she shrugged.

## COBBLE HILL

# School's open — and so are these clinics

State cash saves LICH health centers

By Mike McLaughlin  
 for The Brooklyn Paper

Endangered health clinics in Cobble Hill schools will be open again this fall, thanks to an emergency infusion of cash from the state government.

The clinics, which are located in elementary and middle schools in Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens, Boerum Hill and Park Slope are run by Long Island College Hospital, which will continue to close the centers because they lose \$300,000 per year.

The city will provide enough cash to cover the gap, a relief to politicians and parents paranoid about the return of swine flu.

"The clinics are really here and educate our kids. They also serve as the first line of defense against threats like the H1N1 flu, which will be back with a vengeance this fall," Borough President Markowitz said in a statement.

Markowitz has been leading the fight to maintain the clinics and the maternity and pediatric wards that LICH threatened to shut last year. The clinics are run by students in the four schools: the Brooklyn School for Collaborative Studies on Henry Street, Middle School 51 on Fifth Avenue, PS 38 on



Nursing clinics run by Long Island College Hospital, like the one inside the School for Global Studies on Baltic Street, will remain open.

## BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

# Plaza un-sweet

Waiter: Diner stiffed me

By Mike McLaughlin  
 for The Brooklyn Paper

A waiter at the original Plaza Diner has accused his former bosses of paying him a miserly wage of just \$0.74 an hour for 14 hours a week, including overtime.

Waiter George Haritopoulos filed a class action suit against the diner last week — though so far he's the only plaintiff — after he was stiffed with the claim of being entitled to "proper minimum wage, overtime compensation and

These gratuities enabled Haritopoulos to survive, his lawyer, Brian Schaffer told

He also claimed that workers are underpaid.

"He has a pay stub," Likourousos said. "When the time comes, we can show it and it'll be over in a heartbeat."

Haritopoulos' lawyer was exacting, forcing his employer to take a gratuities bite out of his former bosses, slamming the eatery for "feeding the public with minimum wage and infamously low wages, such as Vincent 'The Chin' Giagante and Peter, Gene and John Gott."

The waiters ate in the diners, so he brought the restaurant "since day one," he said, that workers are treated well.

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AWP 3



# ★★★★★ HERE IT IS! OUR BIG DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY PAGE ★★★★★

## The last word from Dem candidates

### On the eve of next's week primary, we've called them all!

On Tuesday, Sept. 15, Democratic voters will go to the polls — a primary that is tantamount to election in heavily Democratic Brooklyn. So we gave all the candidates one last chance to win your vote.

#### 33rd District

Greenpoint, Williamsburg, DUMBO, Brooklyn Heights and parts of Cobble Hill and Park Slope

#### Isaac Abraham

Q: Why are you the best man for the job?

A: I have a lot of experience, it has to do with accomplishments. I can be your loudest speaker. I have been involved that unrelenting for 36 years.

Q: What are some of the things you achieved?

A: Being a community leader dealing with families at a time of need, a time of stress and a time of pain.

Delivering packages to poor people to help them deal with transportation issues when I first came to the city to cover the Williamsburg Bridge with tarp when they were doing the lead paint. I fought against the largest asbestos estimator in the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Q: Your opponents question your ability to lead outside of the heavily Hasidic, though small, portion of the district.

A: Fewer women have run and the issues that I have addressed know that the location doesn't matter. Affordable housing is something I have been involved in. It doesn't matter whether it is Kent Avenue or Court Street.

Q: Describe yourself in seven words or less.

A: If it's not right, I'll fight.

#### Ken Baer

Q: What makes you most qualified for the job?

A: Because of my background. I'm an accountant. I've been involved in all aspects of my adult life and I have lived in Brooklyn for 30 years. As a result, I've developed a rapport with the resi-

ders and real-estate interests and Brooklyn party boss Vito Lopez. They can spin it all they want — that's what they do. We can't afford to let them do that.

Q: Seven words or less?

A: Effective, honest leader, family man.

#### Ken Diamondston

Q: What makes you the best guy in the front?

A: Downzoning the waterfront in Williamsburg and Greenpoint.

Q: Why downzone now?

A: The whole idea is to make sure that more high-end buildings are not introduced along the waterfront so that we can create more parks.

Q: Critics say you don't have enough experience.

A: I am a very experienced, and I have more accomplishments in more parts of the district, and I want to be the one who is running. I know government at every level because my work at the community board over the past 10 years.

Q: Seven words or less?

A: I am a leader, experienced, and the ground running in terms of building on these relations.

Q: Seven words or less?

A: Progressive, intelligent, compassionate, energetic, organic.

#### Doug Biviano

Q: What makes you the best candidate?

A: I'm an engineer. I'm a public school parent. We don't need four years of a machine candidate taking office.

Q: Many say it's a three-person race — and you're not in the three.

A: I think we are far ahead of where others think we are.

Q: Seven words or less?

A: Deserving the services we need to live and save lives. That means fighting corruption and making sure our senior center, our EMS, our schools, government and our health care get funded. I don't think we're seeing leadership.

Q: Your opponents say you've got a mainly Hasidic constituency.

A: They are just upset because I pointed out all of the money they've taken from de-

velopers and the community.

Q: Seven words or less?

A: Progressive, reformer, environmental servant to our communities.

#### Steve Levin

Q: What makes you the best man for the job?

A: First of all, it's been a tremendous privilege for me over the past month to meet with people from all walks of life.

A: They are just upset because I pointed out all of the money they've taken from de-

velopers and the community.

Q: Seven words or less?

A: Progressive, reformer, environmental servant to our communities.

#### If elected, what is issue number one?

A: Obviously, the most burning issue is development. The other is education.

Q: Other candidates claim you've flip-flopped on Atlantic Yards and Superfund design for Gowanus Canal.

A: It's baloney. This is the politics of personal destruction.

I have never waffled on any-

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Q: OK, but why should people vote for you?

A: I have the experience, and the know-how to get results on issues like housing, education, and the environment.

Q: What's your priority?

A: Developing housing for our seniors and making sure that we have a day care center in the community.

Q: For the record, is there more than seven words?

A: Evan Thies

Q: Why you? Why now?

I have studied things carefully before I reached an opinion. I think that is something when there are legitimate concerns. I have been involved in the campaign, I educated myself, and came to an opinion.

Q: Opponents say that you are a member of the Democratic machine because of your experience working for Yassky.

A: I'm proud of the work I did. I have delivered a lot of results that will benefit the community for years to come.

Q: For the record, is there more than seven words?

A: Evan Thies

Q: Why you? Why now?

A: Our neighborhoods are going to need a representative who has worked in local government, understands how our system works and how to work with the community.

Q: Opponents say you are a member of the Democratic machine because of your experience working for Yassky.

A: I'm proud of the work I did. I have delivered a lot of results that will benefit the community for years to come.

Q: For the record, is there more than seven words?

A: Evan Thies

Q: Why you? Why now?

A: I am going to submit and pass a law to create 360-de-

signs. I've differed with David on local issues in the past, and I've never been shy about it. David and I disagree that affordable housing in major projects should be mandatory. We also disagreed about the Gowanus Canal. In Green Park, I don't want there to be any housing in the park, it's land we'll never get back.

Q: Seven words?

A: Energy, ideas and record to deliver results.

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# Girls gone wild at Slope bar

## POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at [BrooklynPaper.com/blotter](http://BrooklynPaper.com/blotter)

### 78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

Two girls of the popular Flatbush Avenue hotspot Sugar Cane attacked a bartender and a customer with broken bottles and glasses in a noisy bar Sept. 1.

The always-thriving nightclub burst into some real action at around 1:40 am when two women — identified as the girls — got into a police report — got unruly. It's unclear what happened next, but at some point, the women started fighting with a bartender and a customer with bottles, causing lacerations.

Cops said that nubbed her drunken duo while it was still at the bar, which is located across from Sixth Avenue.

**Lapped up**  
A thief grabbed a portable computer out of a Fourth Avenue apartment on Sept. 4.

Cops say that the three men who burst into the Radnor Shack on Seventh Avenue, pulled a knife and stole thousands of dollars of equipment on Sept. 4.

Cops say that the three men — ages 22, 27 and 20 — entered the bar, which is at Fifth Street, at around 11:30 pm. One of them used a knife to deter any heroism from the staff while the other two rifled

possibly with a gun.

The attack left the victim with bruises and cuts to the head, though the assailant is not known. Toyota with

— *Gersh Kuntzman*

### 84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Height • DUMBO

Brownsville • Hill • Gowanus

Pierrepontmeled

**Pierrepummeled**

A 67-year-old man was

beaten and held up at gunpoint on Pierrepont Street at around 10:30 pm.

The criminal duo allegedly confronted the victim on the Brooklyn-side of the fence, and punched him repeatedly, leaving the victim with a bloody nose and a swollen forehead that re-

quired treatment at Long Island College Hospital.

The thieves made off with the victim's iPhone, but cops nabbed a 19-year-old and a 14-year-old suspected of committing the crime.

### Chapel crime

At 10:30 pm on Sept. 4,

The crook grabbed the victim by the neck and arm and removed her keys, wallet, and iPhone as he passed near the corner of Jay Street at around 10:30 pm.

### Fannypack jack!

A thief heisted a Sidekick cellphone from a 16-year-old's fanny pack inside a Cinema City movie theater on Aug. 31.

The perp lifted the phone at around 3 pm and escaped from the United Artists cinema, which is at the corner of State Street.

### Sidekick pick

A thief snatched a Sidekick cellphone from a 34-year-old's fanny pack on Sept. 6.

The crook grabbed the flashy phone near the corner of Smith and Fulton Streets at around 6 pm and fled.

### Campy crime

A thief stole valuables from a 32-year-old man's purse from a Smith Street bar on Sept. 6.

The crook, pillar of the neighborhood, was sitting on the arm of a chair inside the watering hole Camp, which is between Wyckoff and Warren streets, and made off with the victim's credit cards, IDs, and \$40 just after midnight.

### Crime movie

Thieves forced their way into a Henry Street movie theater and stole about \$100 from a cash register early on Sept. 4.

The perp, who was seen walking on the front door of the Brooklyn Heights Cinema, which is at the corner of Orange Street, and got into the theater's sound system between 12:30 am and noon.

— *Ben Muessig with Thomas Tracy*

### 68TH PRECINCT

*Bay Ridge*

### Machete rob

An 18-year-old thief palled a machete on a 12-year-old boy to steal the lad's bike on Sept. 6.

The victim was crossing Sixth Avenue at 66th Street at around 5:20 pm when four teenaged thugs grabbed him — one point-blank, a long blade from under his shirt.

Seeing the menacing weapon, the child quickly handed over the bike, but it wasn't enough.

"What else do you have?" the thief asked.

The victim said he had nothing else — but the earphones leading to his iPod indicated otherwise.

The thieves grabbed it and ran off.

### Takedown

*Smart phone. Dumb crook.*

Cops are looking for a thief who swiped a man's iPhone after demanding his "radio."

The victim told police that he was on Fifth Avenue near the 76th Street 9:30 pm on Aug. 29 when the suspect stopped him and shoved him over to a nearby wall, all the while claiming he had a gun.

"Give me your radio or I'll shoot you," the man threatened before running off with the phone and \$15. As many know, the radio is a whole lot more than just delivering music like an old-style radio, but it is unclear if the crook knew just what kind of portable device he was getting.

— *Thomas Tracy*

### 94TH PRECINCT

Greenpoint • Williamsburg

### Machook

A 24-year-old crook snatched a Driggs Avenue Mac user's laptop on his front steps on Sept. 2.

The thief, who used the 24-year-old's computer as he sat in front of his building, which is between N. Ninth and N. 10th streets at around 3:30 am.

The victim gave chase, but one of the hoodlums pulled out what appeared to be a silver handgun.

"Hold up," the thief said, before hopping into a getaway car near the corner of N. 11th Street.

### Wii-ly bad

A group of goons heisted video games and a Nintendo Wii from a Withers Street apartment while the residents were on vacation between Aug. 28 and Sept. 6.

The perp got into the residence, which is between Hamilton and Graham Avenues, and snatched the console, games, controllers, and a Wii steering wheel used in driving games.

### Bags snagged

Worriers in Greenpoint keep watching greviles' passes

See **BLOTTER** on page 6

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## TRIANGLE

Continued from page 1  
In political discussions and became closely allied with UIO's suit contends. After that point, all other groups, besides UIO and Redgewood, have been "disinvited" from participating in the Broadway Triangle rezoning process, the suit adds.

The suit represents one of the rare times in city history that a community group is seeking to stop a rezoning so that the proposed rezoning would not affect the style towers could be built. But that too, is part of the racial fabric of the ongoing controversy.

The city has tried to justify the low-rise limitation of the proposed rezoning to a community group by pointing to the six- to seven-story housing built by the Hasidic community "which favors low-rise housing because religious Jews cannot use elevators on the Sabbath."

The net result, "has led to another city-sponsored plan for lower development in the South Williamsburg area," the suit alleges.

Calls for a "fairer" ofice were not returned by time press. A spokesperson for the Department of Housing Preservation and Development said the agency would not comment on on-

going litigation. Hours before the suit was filed, opponents and foes gathered at the City Planning Commission's Manhattan office to latest hearing on the rezoning. The plan has already been approved by Community Board 1 and Borough President Markowitz and an overwhelming number of elected officials.

— with Aaron Short



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Sunday, September 20th: Service at 10am

**TASHLICH**

Sunday, September 27th: Kol Nidre at 6:30pm  
Monday, September 28th: Service at 10am, Yizkor at Noon

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Sunday, September 27th: Kol Nidre at 6:30pm  
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*The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings*

September 11, 2009

# Speaking volumes

*Marty Markowitz invites you to go between the covers*By Ben Meissig  
The Brooklyn Paper

**B**ooks, where, you've heard of them, but where's the last time you actually read one?

In our increasingly digital world, books are struggling to retain their cultural relevance — but for at least one day this year they're back. Brooklyn Book Festival, Facebook, and Adult Friend Finder combined (well, maybe not Adult Friend Finder, but you get the point).

The 10th annual Brooklyn Book Festival will honor the second best things printed on paper, as more than 200 literary luminaries will gather at Borough Hall to hawk their wares and discuss their trade.

And it couldn't come at a more crucial moment, according to Johnny Temple, publisher of *Adult Friend Finder*, which have had a record time keeping up with more popular cultural forms — a lot of people are complaining about how no one is reading and buying books anymore, said Temple, executive director of the Brooklyn Library Council.

The best way to [get people to read books] is to bring books to the public as opposed to expecting the public to come to books," he added. "We need to be proactive about it."

And that's just what the festival intends to do, with authors including New York Times' best-selling *Big Book of Brooklyn* author Helen Rosner, *Brooklyn Disciple* ("The Farming of Bones"), who will be honored with a "Best of Brooklyn" award; as well as New England wordsmiths *Barbara Kingsolver* and *Matthew Zapruder* along with poet *Yehuda Berg* and *Sarah Gluck* ("How to Understand Israel in 60 Days or Less") or a conversation titled "Hip Hop Loves Anime," while romance fans might enjoy *Julia Quinn* ("The Duke and the侯爵"), *Rochelle Alers* ("Man of Fantasy"), *Anna DePalo* ("The Billionaire in Penthouse B") and *Diana Hill* ("Wicked Ways").

And that's not all. Authors including *Holden* ("Pisces to Pittsburgh") and *Mo Willems* ("Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale") will read, and young adult authors including *Kate DiCamillo* ("The Tale of Despereaux"), "Because of Winn-Dixie" and *M.T. Anderson* ("The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing" will share their works.

The book festival will also play host to at least two newsworthy revelations: the announcement of the members of a "screening committee" that will help Brooklyn President Markowitz choose a successor for poet laureate Ken Siegelman, and the selection of a winner in St. Francis College's \$50,000 writing contest honoring four-time scribes, one of whom might be Cobble Hill author *Adrienne Miller*.

As authors continue to hock their popularity to newer media, like *Facebook* and *Twitter*, the Brooklyn Paper's Book Festival will attempt to merge literary culture with pop culture with a discussion featuring rapper Lupe Fiasco and Sonic Youth rocker Thurston Moore.

Writers will even discuss the technological advances that are bringing about

## Best of the fest

**N**ot even the fastest speed-reader can attend all of the events at the Brooklyn Book Festival, so we've compiled this checklist to highlight the really good stuff (though for a full schedule and complete list of authors, visit [www.brooklynbookfestival.org](http://www.brooklynbookfestival.org)). Events are free, but tickets must be picked up at least one hour in advance.

**In the shadow**  
In the wake of the deaths of literary legends *John Updike* and *David Foster Wallace* (pictured), writers *Lev Grossman* and *David Lipsky* — author of a forthcoming book on *Wallace* — will discuss their similarities, differences, and lasting impact.

**Borough Hall Courtroom** (209 Joralemon St. between Court and Adams streets in Downtown), 10 am. Free.

**Written music**  
Sonic Youth rocker *Thurston Moore* will chat with rapper *Lupe Fiasco* (not pictured) and songwriter *Tracy Chapman* (not pictured). *Matthew Zapruder* also thinks that ways poems have transformed language — moderated by Brooklyn luminary *Touré*.

**St. Francis College Auditorium** (100 Remsen St. between Court and Clinton streets), noon. Free.

**Books**  
Brooklyn Book Festival at Borough Hall Plaza (209 Joralemon St. between Court and Adams streets), Sept. 13, 10 am to 6 pm. For schedule and a full list of authors and events, visit [www.brooklynbookfestival.org](http://www.brooklynbookfestival.org).

### Cook books

Foodies including *New York Times* food critics *Genevieve Bell* (not pictured) and *Liz Thorpe* (not pictured) will talk about all things edible in a discussion titled "American Food."

**North Stage in Borough Hall Plaza** (Court Street at Montague Street), 3 pm. Free.

**Edwidge Danticat**

In the wake of the death of writer Danticat (not pictured) — whose prose will be honored as the "Best of Brooklyn" — at the festival — will read and discuss how history and culture have influenced her short stories, novels, and memoir.

**St. Francis College Auditorium** (see venue info above), 2 pm. Free.

**Three's company**

Fiction authors *Paul Auster*, *J. Michael Banks*, and *Francine Prose* (not pictured) will discuss their works in an event aptly titled "Literary Party."

**St. Francis College Auditorium** (see venue info above), 3 pm. Free.

**Happy Ending**

The always-enjoying Happy Ending

music and reading series makes a cameo at the Book Festival with an all-star line-up

featuring self-deprecating scribe *Jonathan Ames*, comic *David Cross* (not pictured), and *John Goodman* and *Samuel Satalay*.

**Main Stage in Borough Hall Plaza** (see venue info above), 5 pm. Free.

knowledge that the printed word is in quite a predicament — though that isn't necessarily a bad thing.

"It's important that the changes in culture that the way people will consume their culture," he said. "Culture is constantly evolving, and that's a good thing. For those like myself, who run businesses based on printed books, there are some major challenges, but these are challenges that we have to embrace."

No matter what happens to books as a medium, he said, "books that fill them won't go away, added Temple.

"People are not going to stop telling stories — and people are not going to stop buying stories," he said.

Of course, on Sunday, they're all

free.



### Good teen lit

Book Store teen-lit queen *Libba Bray* (not pictured) — "Going Bovine" and the *Gemini* — will headline a reading called "High School and the Novel" featuring *Carolyn McCullough* ("Once a Witch") and *Adrianna Trigiani* ("Everlasting Series").

**Youth Stoop in Borough Hall Plaza** (see venue info above), 5 pm. Free.



### Happy Ending

The always-enjoying Happy Ending music and reading series makes a cameo at the Book Festival with an all-star line-up featuring self-deprecating scribe *Jonathan Ames*, comic *David Cross* (not pictured) and *John Goodman* and *Samuel Satalay*.

**Main Stage in Borough Hall Plaza** (see venue info above), 5 pm. Free.

## MUSIC

### Yarn tootin'

The Knit has hit the fan. Music fans, that is.

After a two-decade run in Manhattan, the legendary Leonard Street Club in the Knitting Factory opened this week in Williamsburg, bringing another renowned venue to nightlife-laden North Brooklyn.

Before moving into the Metropolitan Avenue space that once housed the Knitting Factory, the group rebuilt a salvaged clubbed the Knit Bar, which will provide space for local bands and intimate performances.

Big acts will play in a rear concert hall deck out with top-of-the-line sound equipment, lighting rigs, and even high-definition video cameras.

"Our goal is to provide a more intimate room for a great staff," says Shay Urishansky, vice president of east coast operations for the club's parent company, which operates venues in Hollywood, Boise and Spokane. "Hopefully fans will feel comfortable coming in day in and day out, regardless of what music we're putting on."

Upcoming events including sets by the quirky cellist *Rasputin* (Sept. 13), the Brooklyn Fashions (Sept. 18), *St. Paul and the Broken Bones* (Sept. 19), *People Under the Stairs* (Sept. 22), *Knitting Factory* (Sept. 24) and *Metropolitan Ave.* at Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg, (347) 529-6696.

— Ben Meissig

## DANCE

### Yo, Juliette!

Stunning French film star Juliette Binoche is already famous for slinking across the silver screen — but this week, she'll begin captivating audiences by dancing on stage.

The actress, beloved by audiences thanks to films like *Chocolat* and *The English Patient*, will perform in "Yo, Juliette" — a dance piece that she co-directed, at the Brooklyn Academy of Music from Sept. 15 to Sept. 26.

Though the Oscar-winning actress isn't a trained dancer, she'll perform alongside co-director and co-star Akram Khan, who plays her lover in a tumultuous affair (of course, it's dance). Khan, who has won awards for his work in her other medium, the movies. Over the next two weeks, moviegoers can catch screenings of more than dozen Binoche films, including *Damage* on Sept. 19, *Flight* on Sept. 20, *Red Balloon* on Sept. 21 and *La Vie en Rose* on Sept. 26.

*"In It,"* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Harvey Theater (651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4700), Sept. 15, 17-19, 22-24, 26-27, 29-30, 3 pm. \$25-\$70.

— Ben Meissig

## MUSIC

### MacSymphony

Computers aren't usually part of a classical music concert. But on Sept. 18 at the Brooklyn Lyceum, the highbrow show is all about the electronics.

**Blind Ear**, a Juilliard-trained group of composers, performers and conductors of film music to create classical pieces in real time.

"This is the perfect combination," said Lyceum booker Deb Klein. "We like experimental, and they are definitely experimental."

Unlike most classical ensembles, which come to perform music written for them, *Blind Ear*'s how it works: A composer stands before the ensemble with the master computer. The master computer is connected to computers in front of each musician. Each musician plays the music that the computer wants the musician to play.

So the "master" is no mere conductor — he is actually composing the piece on the spot.

The ensemble's first performance, Sept. 18, said Jakub Cipinski, one of the creators of *Blind Ear*, is telling the musician how quickly or slowly to play the music.

"If the people will feel the timing of the piece in a different way, then the computer will get the right feedback the composer gets," said Cipinski.

**Blind Ear**, Brooklyn Lyceum (227 Fourth Ave. at Union Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816), Sept. 18, 8 pm. Tickets: \$10 (advance); \$12 (door).

— Shannon Geis

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# WHERE TO GO

## EDITORS' PICKS

### FRIDAY

September 11



### Ethical bluesgrass

It may sound strange, but the best music this weekend is country — and it's an ethical culture school. Tonight and all day tomorrow, the Brooklyn Society of Ethical Culture hosts the annual Bluegrass Jamboree, featuring great acts like Jamie Reams & The Barnstormers, including a woman named Bananas, who is on her way to the nuthouse (the "house" of the play's title).

8 p.m. *Gallery Players* (199 16th St., between Franklin and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (212) 352-3101). [galleryplayers.com](http://galleryplayers.com). Tickets, \$18.

8:30 p.m. *Brooklyn Society of Ethical Culture* (53 Prospect Park West at Second Street in Park Slope, (718) 768-2972). Tickets, \$10.

### SATURDAY

September 12



### Taking 'Leaves'

John Guare's classic farce, "The House of Blue Leaves," is only having a two-week run at the Gallery Players, and tonight's opener is sure to be a blast. It's set in 1965 Queens — on the day that Pope Paul VI visited, and it's going the way Guare introduces us to a tiny cast of characters, including a woman named Bananas, who is on her way to the nuthouse (the "house" of the play's title).

8 p.m. *Gallery Players* (199 16th St., between Franklin and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (212) 352-3101). [galleryplayers.com](http://galleryplayers.com). Tickets, \$18.

10 a.m.-6 p.m. *Borough Hall* and *plaza* (299 Joralemon St., between Adams and Court streets in Downtown, (718) 802-3530). Free.

### SUNDAY

September 13



### Book 'em

Christmas comes early for book-lovers in the form of today's Brooklyn Book Festival. This ever-burgeoning event features Jonathan Ames, Edwidge Danticat, Pete Hamill, Alvin Ailey, and the Hustvedt (and hubby Paul Auster, pictured), and so many more. And it's all overseen by Borough President Markowitz, who is so larger than life that you'd think Gary Shteyngart made him up.

8 p.m. *Gallery Players* (199 16th St., between Franklin and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (212) 352-3101). [galleryplayers.com](http://galleryplayers.com). Tickets, \$18.

### TUESDAY

September 15



### Sohn thing else

You love her, you hate her, but the time has come to listen to Park Slope's public attorney now. Author Amy Sohn has come from her new chick-lit classic, "Prospect Park West" — a book that purports to reveal the truth about how lousy all the Park Slope mommies and daddies are. You know what? She has a point. There, we said it.

7 p.m. *Amy Sohn Reading*, Brooklyn Book Festival, between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 875-3677). [bookcourt.org](http://bookcourt.org). Free.

10 a.m.-6 p.m. *Borough Hall* and *plaza* (299 Joralemon St., between Adams and Court streets in Downtown, (718) 802-3530). Free.

### THURSDAY

September 17



### Blow it

Now here's a good thing that we can really get behind: the Sensatorium Saxophone Orchestra. Composer and musician Ben Miller leads a 12-saxophone (and two drummer) band that will be performing the debut of his "Symphony of Suspicious Activity," with a "massive, spectrally enveloping sound," as the Village Voice once said.

8 p.m. *Sensatorium Saxophone Orchestra*, Brooklyn Uptown Foodie, at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816). [www.brooklynuptown.com](http://www.brooklynuptown.com). Tickets, \$12 (advance).

## NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, SEPT. 11

READING: MIKE ROBBINS & WENDY PALITZ: *The Writers of the Whole Green Catalog* — 1,000 Best Things Not to Buy. 7 p.m. *BookCourt* (163 Court St., between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 875-3677). [bookcourt.org](http://bookcourt.org).

CINEMA: "PARIS, Star Lutte" Screening: 7 p.m. *Brooklyn Academy of Music* (303 Second Street at Court Street in Cobble Hill, (718) 346-1101). [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

CLOUDS: "SS" & "The Barnstormers" — 8 p.m. *Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture* (53 Prospect Park West at Second Street in Park Slope, (718) 768-2972). [www.brooklynclouds.org](http://www.brooklynclouds.org).

READING: NIC BROWN: *Autumn of the Floodmakers* — 7 p.m. *BookCourt* (163 Court St., between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 875-3677). [bookcourt.org](http://bookcourt.org).

READING: PETE CANDY STORE: *Pray the Devil Back to Hell* — 7 p.m. *Brooklyn Academy of Music* (303 Second Street at Court Street in Cobble Hill, (718) 346-1101). [www.petescandy.org](http://www.petescandy.org).

READING: MICHAEL ROBBINS & WENDY PALITZ: *The Whole Green Catalog* — 1,000 Best Things Not to Buy. 7 p.m. *BookCourt* (163 Court St., between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 875-3677). [bookcourt.org](http://bookcourt.org).

READING: JAMES STURTEVANT & THE BARNSTORMERS — 8 p.m. *Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture* (53 Prospect Park West at Second Street in Park Slope, (718) 768-2972). [www.brooklynclouds.org](http://www.brooklynclouds.org).

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Our Sweet Melissa downs some of her amazing lemon cookies.

# 'Lemon' pledge

Make these cookies for after-school fun

By Melissa Murphy  
for The Brooklyn Paper

I remember being so excited

for my first day of school.

I had laid out my dress

night before, a pretty yellow

and white gingham dress with

an all-over collar. My backpack was packed. Barbie lunchbox at the ready. My mom had

touched up my saddle shoes

with white polish, painted and

buffed them to a shine.

I was terrified of getting on the bus — but my brav-

ery was rewarded upon com-

ing home to the smell of my

mother's lemon cookies, my fa-

vorite.

Clearly, school wasn't

quite so bad after all.

Melissa Murphy is the chef/

owner of Sweet Melissa's Pa-

stry in Brooklyn, located be-

tween First and Second streets

in Park Slope, (718) 288-2700,

276 Court St., between Butler

and Franklin Aves., Cobble

Hill, (718) 855-3410. Visit

www.sweetmelissapatis-

serie.com.

## Chewy Lemon Sugar Cookies

1/2 pound (two sticks) unsalted butter, softened  
1-1/2 cups sugar  
Zest of two lemons, finely shredded  
1/2 cup all-purpose flour  
Juice of two lemons  
2 large eggs  
1/2 cup all-purpose flour  
1-1/2 teaspoons cream of tartar  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1/4 cup sugar for rolling

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, cream the butter, sugar and lemon zest until light and fluffy. Add the eggs, one at a time, and beat to combine. In a separate, medium-sized

bowl, whisk together the flour, cream of tartar, sugar and salt. Add to the butter mixture in two batches, blending after each. Scrape bowl to ensure proper mixing. Refrigerate the dough until firm, about one hour.

Position a rack in the top and

bottom thirds of your oven. Line two cookie sheets with parchment paper or aluminum foil.

When the dough is cold enough

to handle, use a one-ounce cookie

scoop, or a tablespoon, to shape the dough into balls and then roll them in the sugar.

Place the cookies two inches

apart on the prepared cookie

sheet and flatten them slightly

with your fingers as they

stay put. Bake for 12 minutes,

or until the bottoms are slightly

golden. These cookies are sup-

posed to be chewy, so do not

over-bake.

Remove to a wire rack to cool.

## SOUTH...

Continued from page 1  
"Line Bands," though residents still use the above room as a name when referring to the shop.

For now, Sariks said he doesn't know what he'll do about the cease-and-desist deadline, which comes next day after the band's final gig at the Bay Ridge Reunion and nine days before another certain-to-be-unregistered gig at Bally's Casino.

"We're very new down as South," said Eric Sariks, who is also a member of the three-decades-old band Head Over Heels, which had a Southern-heavy playlist when it formed. "It makes but money on the corporate scene with Sunoco and other standards."

On Wednesday, he was still scratching his head about the flack from the

Kentucky-based makers of the booze with whom his band shares a name. "I've been here for 10 years, and not to blow my own horn, but we are the most popular band in the neighborhood," he said. "If someone in another band came as out to [Southern Comfort Project], how else can you explain it?"

Or is it certain for now: the band is not ordering any Southern Comfort.

Carson Southern Comfort as part of the Bay Ridge Reunion at Fort Hamilton Parkway (enter at 101st Street in Bay Ridge) on Sunday, Sept. 13 at 8 p.m. The band will also perform at Bally's Casino (Third Avenue at 25th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 833-2801) on Friday, Sept. 25 at 10 p.m.



## Art house

A Crown Heights condo building finally got some tenants last week when the arts group SuperPrime turned it into a gallery.

"It's really beneficial," said SuperPrime co-founder Harry Gassel.

"We showcase young artists here and the broker gets free publicity."

And it's interactive. Guests made

Roland Tangco's piece (pictured) by

tearing out images from books.

"71 Prospect Place" (717 Prospect Place, Ft. Greene) is open

7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, noon to 6 p.m., through Sept. 26.

— Sabrina Jaszi



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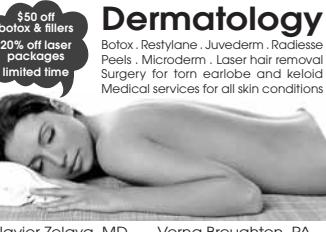
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AWP 11



# The Brooklyn Paper

KIDS • SCHOOL • STYLE • TEENS • CAMPS • MUSIC

# PARENT

## FAMILY CALENDAR

**FRI, SEPT. 11**  
11 am: *Dirk Wittenborn: The author of "PHAR-MAKON... or The Story of a New York City Gumbo" (493 Atlantic Ave. in Boerum Hill, 718-855-7898)*

**SAT, SEPT. 12**  
1:45 pm: Harvest, cook, and eat potatoes — and work the apple fritters. *Free. Lofters' Historic House* (Enter past the entrance to the Lofters at Empire Boulevard, (718) 287-3400 X101). [www.lofters.com](http://www.lofters.com)

**1 pm: Nature Crafts** *Free. Prospect Park Audubon Center* (see website for details)

**2:30 pm: Early American crafts and games** *Free. Lofters' Historic House* (see venue info above), [www.haertoffbrooklyn.org](http://www.haertoffbrooklyn.org)

**3 pm: Artichoke Dance Company** *Workshop and performance of solo dances* *Free. Old Stone House* (336 Third St., between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope (718) 268-3195). [www.oldstonehouse.org](http://www.oldstonehouse.org)

**5 pm: Care Bears On** *Free. The Bell House* (148 Stillwell Ave., between Hicks and Henry Streets in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510). [www.thebellhouse.com](http://www.thebellhouse.com)

**SUN, SEPT. 13**  
11 am: *5 pm: Victorian baseball. Definitely not the Dodgers. Free. Lofters' Historic House* (see venue info above)

**2:30 pm: Early American crafts and games** *Free. Lofters' Historic House* (see venue info above), [www.haertoffbrooklyn.org](http://www.haertoffbrooklyn.org)

**3 pm: Artichoke Dance** *Company. Workshop and performance of solo dances* *Free. Old Stone House* (336 Third St., between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope (718) 268-3195). [www.oldstonehouse.org](http://www.oldstonehouse.org)

**To list your event, visit: [BrooklynPaper.com/events/submit](http://BrooklynPaper.com/events/submit)**

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Kids Cool w/ Jane Z (Mon 9:30, Tues 2:45)  
Baby Pictures w/ Alan (Thurs 4:30)

FREE FAMILY DISCO PARTY! SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH, 6PM

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## AUDI...

*Continued from page 1*

You are in one of the most beautiful and historic neighborhoods in Brooklyn where parking is a scarcity. Now you get to enjoy the benefit of a car and a parking space, so you don't have to worry about finding a spot."

The German-made sedans retail for more than \$30,000, while parking spaces in the building — which is located at the foot of the planned Brooklyn Bridge Park — sell for about \$140,000, Levine noted.

This isn't the first incentive to draw new residents to

the building, which remains two-thirds vacant.

The developers have issued several rounds of price cuts and even offered to waive the rent to tenants in the building, when residents collectively contribute \$3 million per year in lieu of taxes for upkeep of Brooklyn Bridge Park.

Legendary real-estate broker Chris Havens doubts that the cars will actually cement any

deals — but they could bring the 449-unit building some much-needed attention.

"The odds are not that great that it will make a difference, but they could get people to pay attention," he said. "It might get people in the door. And once they are in there and they see the view, they see the building, they see the amenities, maybe they'll see something they like."

He added: "But they could bring the 449-unit building some much-needed attention."

The developers have issued several rounds of price cuts and even offered to waive the rent to tenants in the building, when residents collectively contribute \$3 million per year in lieu of taxes for upkeep of Brooklyn Bridge Park.

## ARENA...

*Continued from page 1*

poles is the sixth version of his arena design and nothing else. The previous five designs all failed, and this one is likely to do the same."

The developer does face significant challenges to getting his project built. Ratner must sell millions in bonds to raise capital before an end-of-year deadline. And next month, New York's highest court will hear a challenge to the state's use of eminent domain to clear land for his project.

But on Wednesday morning, Ratner was keeping the focus on the positives. "It's a great project," he said. "It's a great project that's been described as 'one of the first great urban arenas in the world.'

The first engages the ground where the weathered steel exterior rises and lowers to create a sense of visual transparency, transitioning into a grand civic gesture that cantilevers out into a square canopy at the corner of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues.

The canopy, which is 30 feet above ground level, contains an oculus that frames the pedestrian's view of the arena. The second, a glass band, allows for views from inside and outside the arena. The third band floats around the corner of Flatbush and Atlantic in transparency, the weathered steel creating backlit panels.

It is the soaring glass-walled, cathedral-like "Urban Room" that was central to the original design by Gehry, whose inclusion in the project was one of its initial selling points. The band is topped with an open plaza that's a baseball-cap-like band.

The arena was projected to cost around \$450 million when it was unveiled in late 2003, but those costs skyrocketed to close to \$1 billion until Gehry was fired in a contentious meeting.

One architect not involved with the project said that the new design, at the very least, would be more sensitive to Brooklyn than Gehry's plan.

"If SHoP can get Ratner to do the right thing — that's a big 'if' — the arena is actually good," said Brian O'Kearney, a New York-based architect. "SHoP is a very, very good firm that is sensitive to the cost of construction. They are also committed New Yorkers — and I believe that several of the partners are Brooklynites."

Borough Hall Mayor Marty Markowitz, who is not an architect, was surprised by the new design.

"As I have said all along, Brooklyn is the greatest city in America," the Beep said in a statement. "We're ready to get back into professional sports' big leagues, and this arena is going to make it happen."

Markowitz said the new design "delivers not only a luminous, iconic structure that celebrates Brooklyn's industrial heritage with its steel and glass exterior, but one that harmonizes with the architecture of the surrounding neighborhood and creates a welcoming environment for the people who live here."

The developer and models will go on display publicly at Borough Hall on Monday, Sept. 14 — and there will be a public information session conducted by the Empire State Development Corporation, Ratner's development partner, on that evening.

**Atlantic Yards** *rollings* (starting at 10 am) and public information session (starting at 6 pm), Brooklyn Borough Hall [209 Joralemon St., between Adams and Court streets in Downtown], (800) 260-7313.

## Back in class, OSFO has first-day blues



By Louise Crawford

**S**o it's the first day of school. Again. Mom and family have entered so many first days of school she's lost count.

Oh, anxiety, the antithesis of

Teen Spirit's first day when he went to the 2-year-old program at Bed-Stuyous Nursery School in 1993.

The night before the first day, he tossed and turned all night. Why did he want to go to school? Shouldn't he just stay home and bask in his parent's love?

He suggested they take him over to Smartmom anyway — just to see. Teen Spirit enjoyed his day and was so happy that he decided to keep him there.

And then there wasTeen Spirit's first day of school.

Smartmom still loves to look at that photo of her son the first day of school, but she wishes he could have stayed with him — forever. But he survived that first day.

And so did Smartmom. And then there was more time for Smartmom and her children to end up at the bus stop.

Smartmom had anxiety-ridden first days at middle school, his first and second — high school.

**S**o Wednesday was just another first day. But this was a first day in a long time. This was the first day in 10 years that Teen Spirit doesn't have a school to go to.

He's still at Gap Year University, where Smartmom isn't a student anymore. He's got a job and is experiencing the world without school for the first time.

So Wednesday, Smartmom slept in on Wednesday. Like Smartmom, she wasn't quite ready to give up the freedom and fun of summer. Like Smartmom, she was a quick ready for the work-world — and prepared for seventh grade, the year that really matters grade-wise for high school admissions.

OSFO made it clear that

she didn't want Smartmom to escort her to school on the first day. She planned to walk to school with Luvlab, dressed in the outfit he picked out on a school night.

in San Francisco, a pretty white miniskirt, a white tank top, a pretty cardigan from Gap, and Gap leggings that fit like a glove.

Her backpack was stuffed full of all the school supplies that she and Smartmom bought on Tuesday at OSFO.

Smartmom said good-bye to OSFO at the front door. Heptac ran out of the bed-

room in his underwear. "You're going away?" he asked.

"I'm going to OSFO

but OSFO won't have any summer camp or anything — and absolutely no photographs."

This was just another first day of school. When she was a junior, she had to make it on her own just like her mother did.

She had to make it on her own just like her mother did.

Heptac has to make it on his own just like his mother did.

He has to be at work at

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**OUR OPINION**

# Get engaged!

**O**n Tuesday, Democratic voters in a wide swath of Brooklyn will make their choices known to City Council members — a primary vote that is tantamount to election in heavily Democratic Brooklyn.

But too few voters will actually cast their vote on Sept. 15. And that's a tragic mistake in a city the 33rd, which includes Williamsburg, the Brooklyn Heights and part of Park Slope, and the 39th, which sprawls from Borough Park to Cobble Hill. Brooklyn voters most in Park Slope.

Given that low turnout, a few more voters will likely mean the difference in the seven-candidate race for the 33rd District and the five-man battle for the 39th. And that always says a lot. Your vote makes a difference — but this is, it is actually true in a very real sense.

You — yes, you, the guy reading this on the F train — will pine for next come election day.

But such empowerment is wasted on the disaffected. During this spirited campaign, we have been stunned to witness

the public's utter disengagement from the political process. Yes, there are bigger battles being fought in Washington and around the world, but it's the city councilmembers who are closest to you and to your vote.

For too many, the 33rd and 39th are a primary vote that is tantamount to election in heavily Democratic Brooklyn.

Not only do councilmembers actually have such a small role in the political process, they will forever change our community character, but your councilmember is your neighborhood storefront, the place to address general quality-of-life issues. All the more reason to turn out and take your calls on such things.

Yet most people can't be bothered. The only day for voting is the one before the first of the 39th District candidates to forestall the closing of an important subway entrance in Carroll Gardens. Both of

these seekers tried to distribute information to strangers about the impending closure — but the vast majority of commuters, who would be directly affected by the subway entrance shutdown, wouldn't even take the handout. A tiny portion even thought the councilmembers were acting as if they would be councilmembers rather than an important piece of information about the community.

The good news is that there's still time for you — yes, you, the woman reading this on her laptop at the Tea Lounge — to put an end to willful ignorance of the political process. You can do that by making our endorsements for the Democratic nomination in both districts, tapping John Heyer in the 39th and Evan This in the 33rd. We urge registered Democrats to check out our Web site, BoroPolitics.com, where stories about each race — not just from our paper, but from the rest of the city — are conveniently archivable.

And here's another reminder: eat your vegetables. They're also good for you.

**LETTERS**

## Letter writers sound off on our endorsements

To the editor,

It is disappointing to say the least, that The Brooklyn Paper based so much of its endorsement for the 39th District Council seat on its position in favor of the Democratic Yassis ("Dems should pick Heyer in the 39th District," Sept. 4).

The arena would present a good, well-timed, up plan of congestion and even urban blight. And you gave short shrift to an impressive group of other candidates, in particular Gary Reilly, who articulated very well-thought-out positions on this and other issues.

All in all, a baffling endorsement from a paper that should know better.

**Michael Cail, Park Slope**

**Send a letter**

By e-mail:  
newsletters@nycgo.com

By mail: Letters, The Brooklyn Paper, One MetLife Center, Suite 1001, Brooklyn, NY 11201. All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number. Letters to the editor's name and neighborhood are published with the letter. Letters may be edited for space and returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

To the editor,

How did The Brooklyn Paper raise right past the very point of its editorial in endorsing John Heyer?

I do not question your editorial as that is surely a matter of choice.

I do, however, expect a balanced presentation of each candidate. This is surely a requirement if you expect to meet the minimum standards of journalistic ethics.

**Maria Pagano, Carroll Gardens**

The writer is the president of the Carroll Gardens Neighborhood Association.

**Editor's Note:** Reilly was mentioned in our editorial along with the other four candidates.

To the editor,

The Brooklyn Paper's editorial supporting John Heyer reflects its failure to understand the increasingly serious responsibilities of a councilmember in the 39th District.

The issues here in Carroll Gardens are not simply "nats-and-bots, blocky-blocky pothole issues," but large scale, Tammany Hall politics which govern our family.

I am regularly disgusted by the lack of leadership presented by Councilman DeBlasio and took

with trepidation to the future of more of the same.

Heyer's resume demonstrates purpose and commitment, but he has yet to actively jump into the community and demonstrate that community at odds with large political forces. After all, leadership at this level requires it. To point, will he be a leader in an independent party or for our community?

I recommend voters look at all the candidates through this lens.

The transition of the solid Waste Management system to one that tracks trash, development of waterfront parks and so on.

At meetings, I've been very impressed with some of the ideas presented by Heyer. Evan This has some of these problems, but not to the time that it takes to bring it up.

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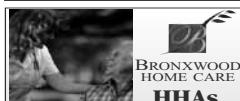
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